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Internet Safety, Identity Theft and Financial Fraud Are Focus of Statewide Cyber Security Awareness Outreach During October

BOISE – With the increasing use of the Internet by Idaho children and the alarming growth of online identity theft and financial fraud, Governor James E. Risch is focusing attention on Cyber Security issues by declaring October as *Cyber Security Awareness Month* in the State of Idaho.

During a press conference held today (Wednesday, October 11) the Governor was joined by state and local government officials including county sheriffs, the FBI, the Idaho Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) and key representatives of the business community.

“It is vitally important that people who use the Internet understand how to protect themselves from fraud and identity theft. Even more importantly is the need to keep kids safe from sexual predators who may be online attempting to solicit them,” said Risch. “Our new website will help parents and children understand the risks that are online and allow them to use the Internet in a safe and productive manner.”

At the kick-off press conference, a new Idaho Cyber Security Website (www.idaho.gov/cyber/) promoting online safety was launched. The website, developed through the state’s web portal, idaho.gov, helps users recognize the risks associated with online activities and provides guidance to the best resources. The new site also provides links to good online habits, how to keep your personal information safe, protecting yourself and family from online sexual predators, Internet fraud and how to recognize malicious email. The web site is geared to the interests of kids, teens, parents, businesses and educators.

Cyber Security Awareness activities also include public service announcements issued for use by the news media; information and disaster/recovery business continuity preparedness seminars for the business community along with local cyber security presentations statewide; and educational materials for 4th and 5th graders and university level cyber security seminars/events. Local and state government agencies are also conducting comprehensive cyber security assessments as a pilot initiative for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to be used throughout all 50 states. Cyber Security Awareness Month is being coordinated through the Information Technology Resource Management Council (ITRMC) and the Department of Administration. ###